

RAMAYANA TRAIL

6 Nights / 7 Days

1st Day. AIRPORT – COLOMBO

On arrival at the Colombo International Airport. You will be met and welcomed by a representative of Taprobane Tours and Travels and transferred to Hotel in Colombo.

Evening city tour of Colombo.

Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Colombo

2nd Day. COLOMBO – PINNAWALA - PERADENIYA – KANDY

After breakfast leave for Kandy via Pinnawela. On the way visit the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage..This is an orphanage and a breeding ground for wild elephants.

Later visit the Royal Botanical garden in Peradeniya, It is the largest botanical garden on the island. It is renowned for the collection the variety of Orchids, and has more than 300 varieties of Orchids, more than 5000 spices, medicinal plants and palm trees. In the evening commence a city tour of Kandy including the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of Buddha - by far the most important place of worship for Buddhists world over, Upper Lake drive a place where one could have a bird's eye view of the city below. And late evening witness the Cultural Show by traditional Kandyan Dancers and Drummers including "Fire Walking".

Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Kandy.

3rd Day – KANDY – NUWARA ELIYA

After breakfast leave for NuwaraEliya. On the way visit a Tea Factory and a Plantation to witness the manufacturing process of world famous "Ceylon Tea" and to taste a pure un-blended cup of factory fresh tea. Also pass by eye-catching views with waterfalls..

Evening city tour of NuwaraEliya Including Victoria Park, Gregory Lake and the Golf Course, the 119 year old club is situated within the city limits. Established in 1891. One of Asia's finest Golf Clubs. On completion visit the Hakgala gardens. The Hakgala Botanical Garden was one of the pleasure gardens of King Ravana of the well-known epic Ramayana. This garden was expanded during the British period and has a wide variety of flowers including an excellent collection of orchids.

This is the exotic pleasure garden where king Ravana kept the depressed Sita, insisting that she marry him. It was here where the heart-warming meeting took place between her and Hanuman, who brought her Rama's ring with the news that Rama was looking for her. He offered to carry her back but she refused saying it would be an insult to Rama's honor if he did so. Part of this majestic garden still exists. It is also said that Hanuman nearly destroyed it in order to prove to Ravana of the forces against him.

[Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Nuwara Eliya](#)

4TH DAY – NUWARA ELIYA - BANDARAWELA

After breakfast visit the Sita, Aman temple. The Sita Amman Temple can be seen en route to Hakgala along the NuwaraEliyaBadulla Road. The prominent temple architecture will not fail to attract your attention on the way to the Hakgala Botanical Gardens from NuwaraEliya. According to tradition, the site is associated with Sita of the Ramayana epic. Ancient statues of Rama and Sita can be seen on a side of the temple. The temple seen today is a modern building with its paintings, statues and pillars decorated with sculptures, all depicting the tale of Rama and Sita. The rear of the temple overlooks a stream, while from its front can be seen the Hakgala peaks.

Thereafter visit Isthipura via Welimada. This exotic cave still boasts the picturesque cascading waterfall that was in existence 2000 years ago. It was within this cave that Sita was held prisoner with over 1500 women to attend to her every need.

Thereafter proceed to Welimada and visit Divurumpola temple.

Although this Vihara is said to be established in the 6th A.D. Polonnaruwa period it has a long history among people of having been started in the time of Rama, Rawana and Sita.

Still revered by thousands, this holy haven was the place where Sita performed her Agni Pariksha (proving her chastity) to her husband Rama. Continuing the practice for over thousands of years, villagers still pledge their fidelity or take oaths there and even in certain courts, this agreement was binding.

Since that time this place has been respected and worshiped by people down the ages. Furthermore it is said that this place was given the name "Divurumpola" or the place of making a vow. Not only in legends but this name has been inscribed in the moonstone guarding the Devale in the premises.

Dinner and overnight stay at a Hotel in Bandarawela.

5TH DAY - BANDARAWELA - RATNAPURA - SITAWAKA - COLOMBO

After breakfast leave for Negombo via Ratnapura and Sitawaka, Avissawella.

Ratnapura is the fabled city of gems. Its name remains unchanged over the years and means "city of gems". In Ratnapura prospecting and mining goes on every day. Visit a gem mine and a museum and strike a bargain at one of the shops.

Sitawaka, situated near Avissawella on a tributary of the Kelani Ganga (river). Not surprisingly it derives its name from Sita, who is supposed to have been imprisoned by Ravana in a grove in this neighborhood.

Dinner and overnight stay at a hotel in Colombo

6th DAY - COLOMBO - CHILAW - COLOMBO

After breakfast leave for Chilaw and visit Muneeshwaram. Lord Rama after his victorious battle left for Ayodhya in one of King Ravana's vimana's. He felt he was being followed by bramhaasthidosham as he had killed King Ravana who was a Brahmin. He stopped the vimana at this juncture because he felt at this place the "BrahmaasthiDosham" was not following him.

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He ascended from the vimana and asked God Shiva for a remedy. God Shiva blessed Lord Rama and advised him installing and praying four lingams at Manavari, ThiruKoneshwaram, ThiruKetheshwaram and Rameshwaram in India, as the only remedy to get rid of the dosham.

Manavari is the first place where Lord Rama installed and prayed the Siva lingam after the end of the war with King Ravana. To date this lingam is called as RamalingaShivan. Rameshwaram is the only other lingam in the world named after Lord Rama. Transfer from Chilaw to Negombo.

Dinner and overnight stay at a Hotel in Colombo

7th DAY – COLOMBO – AIRPORT

End of Tour

